

# Baptist Record

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## To Sonoita

### Jeff Davis group heads for Mexico

By Don McGregor

For a number of Baptists in Jefferson Davis County, the commission to make disciples of every nation finds its fulfillment in the dusty village of Sonoita, Mexico, just south of Gila Bend, Ariz.

A 30-mile wide stretch of land in Mexico lies along the United States-Mexico boundary where no missions efforts are being expended to any great extent because of its remoteness. The Baptists of Jeff Davis Association, and particularly those of Society Hill Church, have zeroed in on this territory as if it were their direct mandate in the Great Commission.

A sizeable group from the association will leave March 9 for Sonoita in a chartered Trailways bus, in cars, and in motor homes to make the trip for at least the fourth time that someone in the association has been there. They will stay until March 18.

Several churches will be involved in this trip. A group of men gathered at Society Hill Church for a church Brotherhood meeting recently to discuss their previous trips, to lay plans for the one to come, and to talk to the *Baptist Record* about their missions endeavors.

The trip beginning March 9 will be one of their more ambitious. The Society Hill folks have discovered great medical needs in the area and plan to take a doctor, other medical personnel, and supplies on this trip. They



Sammy Myers, left, a member of Society Hill Church, Jeff Davis Association, discusses a trip to Mexico with L. B. Atchison, director of missions for the association.

have trucked in large amounts of non-prescription drugs on other occasions. In addition, Sammy Myers made a trip in January to take a new motor for a Ford van with 280,000 miles on the old motor. The van is used by a mission volunteer named Serna, who lives in Arizona but ministers to the people across the border in Mexico. He uses the van to gather people for services. A rack on top allows him to more than double the 12-passenger capacity of the van. He has transported as many as 28 at a time.

During the trip beginning March 9 Mrs. Billy Green, wife of the pastor of White Sand Church, will teach a Bible school. College students will do repair work on buildings. On previous trips missionaries have done the language translating, but for this trip there have been 18 people taking Spanish lessons at Calvary Church in Bassfield.

Over the past several years there have been about 33 people from Society Hill who have been a part of the church's missions endeavors, according to Pastor Ray Henry. The trips began in 1978; and there have been 31 separate missions expeditions, he noted.

In addition to Myers' recent trip to Sonoita, there have been two other excursions to that Mexican village. In November some members of the church took two rental trucks loaded with clothing and generators to Sonoita. While they were there they discovered the need for medicine, and by Dec. 21 there had been \$2,000 worth contributed. They left again for the 1,600-mile trip just before Christmas. They were also taking clothes again and \$2,400 worth of beans and flour. They left \$600 in cash to be used on the church building. About 30 people went on this trip, and they ministered in four villages along the border. They had services at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sometimes the 2 p.m. services lasted until the 6 p.m. services began, they said. It took all of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to get all of the clothes across the border.

The group spent a week in Mexico on this trip and was there on Christ-



Jeff Davis County Baptists gathered to discuss missions endeavors were, left to right, Robert Schepemaker, John Kroner, L. B. Atchison, Randy Easterling, Sonny Magee, Coy Tournage, Kenneth Stephens, Larue Magee, Ivan

Dyess, Ray Henry, John Wayne Tolar, and Sexton Young. All but Easterling and Atchison are members of Society Hill Church. Henry is pastor. Atchison is director of missions for the association, and Easterling is a member of Phalti Church.

mas day. For the Christmas service they passed out 200 bags of candy as Christmas presents. Myers gave one man some shirts, including the one he was wearing at the time. On hearing of this a Mexican who is a member of the Baptist congregation gave Myers a jacket and contributed \$47 for gasoline for the van and a car.

Myers said the people had no concept of the gospel. Some walked three hours to get to services, he said, and three surrendered to preach on the last night of the visit.

Sonny Magee, a member at Society Hill, has been the coordinator for most of the missions trips. The first one, to Beulah, Mont., came about as the result of a story in the *Baptist Record* which noted that a crew that was supposed to gather couldn't make the trip. Magee, a carpenter, organized a group of men to take care of the emergency; and they have been going ever since. In addition to Beulah they have been to Medicine Bow, Wyoming; Victor, and Harlowtown in Montana.

In Victor they built a church building in three days. In Harlowtown they found a church that was down to six in attendance. Over a period of 16 months, nine women had kept it going. Now the attendance averages 40.

The pastor at Harlowtown is Ed Taylor, who surrendered to preach at 56.

Other trips have been to North Dakota and to Woodstock, Vt.

L. B. Atchison, director of mission in Jeff Davis Association, said that Society Hill Church is important in the association's mission efforts. "They get things going, and others in the association pitch in on it," he said. They give their testimonies in other churches to encourage others, he noted.

Other trips have been to Uruguay and to Mendoza in Argentina, and Pastor Henry recently returned from a second trip to Mendoza.

Henry said he had been praying for

possibilities of missions involvement to open up and he obtained a list of needs. The group had settled on Montana. The week before the first trip there was no transportation, he said; and it was not an easy task. But they went. Some asked why go when there

were needs at home. "But there is something about going," he noted, "and the blessing comes from obeying God."

"We go because of a word from God," he added.

## Fellowship of Baptist Men

### "Let's get out and do something" afterwards

By Mike Davis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—The General Council of the Fellowship of Baptist Men has been urged, "Let's get out and do something after the meeting is over."

C. E. Price, council president and second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, stressed that the machinery is in place to involve more men in missions and he is eager to see some action.

Council work groups reported on the fellowship's organization and structure; mechanism of enrollment, process of leadership discovery and communication of program; suggestions for types of fellowships, and developing resources for volunteers and personal evangelism.

Price reported on meetings between Fellowship of Baptist Men leaders and Foreign Mission Board personnel in Richmond, Va., and with Home Mission Board representatives in Atlanta which focused on ways the Fellowship of Baptist Men can assist the mission boards.

The laymen abroad program and evangelism partnerships were identified as two methods used by the Foreign Mission Board where Baptist men can get directly involved.

The need for more volunteers, as-

sistance in funding for volunteers, and employment needs for bivocational pastors were among opportunities discussed at the Home Mission Board.

Nathan Porter, national consultant for domestic hunger and disaster relief at the Home Mission Board, and a guest at the council meeting in Brotherhood Commission offices in February, challenged the members to lead men to get involved in services to poor people.

He said it is a good thing to help construct church buildings, but poor people often have a greater need for help with repairs on their homes. In addition to offering legal services to churches and denominational organizations, he urged Baptist attorneys to help underprivileged people who often have pressing legal needs, particularly in family and civil matters.

Porter added in poverty areas of the United States few children have ever seen a dentist and out-of-work people need educational training in "re-tooling" them for today's job market.

Bill Rhodes, an attorney from Atlanta, and first vice president of the council, reported on the successful organization of a Fellowship of Baptist lawyers from Georgia.

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## Gambling: who are the winners?

The failure to vote by a representative who was present may have allowed the lottery bill (HCR 4) to slip through the house. On Thursday of last week it failed, for, being a constitutional amendment, it requires a two-thirds majority for passage. It had a simple majority of 67 votes to 54 but needed 81. The politicians in the House had it held over for reconsideration and went to work. On Friday it passed by the exact number needed, 75 of the 112 voting. R. G. Clark had voted against the measure on Thursday. On Friday he was present but didn't vote.

The failure to halt the lottery, however, cannot be blamed on Clark's failure to vote on Friday. On Friday there were seven Baptist representatives who voted for the lottery who had voted against it the day before. If anyone of those seven Baptists had remained true to the convictions of his vote on Thursday, the lottery bill would be dead.

On Thursday there were 15 Baptists who voted for the lottery and 32 who voted against it. On Friday two Baptists who had voted against the lottery didn't vote, and seven switched. That changed the count to 22 for and 23 against.

Baptists were not the only ones who switched. Altogether, there were 12 who changed their vote.

Except for the discussion of legislators not sticking by their convictions, however, all of this is academic. The lottery bill was again held over for reconsideration, and another vote was to be taken this week.

But the favorable vote on Friday followed what could be described only as shenanigans. Constitution committee chairman Charlie Capps

is quoted as saying he would not bring the measure up again for a vote until this week after its Thursday defeat. He got it back on the floor again on Friday, however, just before the legislators left for the week end. And suddenly, overnight, it was determined that the money to be gained from the lottery would go to elementary and secondary public education.

The lottery bill has a long way to go yet. Ahead is Senate acceptance and then statewide voter approval. If it should pass all of that, however, it would be interesting to determine how much revenue it generates for public education. This ploy has been responsible for the passage of a lot of legislation which then failed to provide the income promised.

The strange thing is that Bill Jones was the one who added the provision on Friday for using the money for education, yet he did not vote on Friday. It is obvious, of course, that the education provision was added in order to gather votes. That means that someone is highly interested in a lottery being passed, but education is not the reason for the interest.

A lottery is gambling, pure and simple. If it passes, the state government will be in the gambling business. And if it passes, it will open the door for other types of gambling legislation. It becomes apparent, as one watches the action, that the primary interest of those pushing

gambling legislation is not to provide more revenue for the state. There will be some, but it will not measure up to promises and may not even be significant. The revenue could be had more easily from direct taxation. Taxes, however, would tap the pocketbooks of those who could afford to pay. Gambling gets its income from those who cannot. Because of their need, they try to better their circumstance. The cruel truth is that the organizations operating the gambling establishments are the only sure winners.

As the Baptist Record went to press this week, the lottery question was not settled in the House. It was brought up on Thursday, as noted, and defeated. It was held over on a motion to reconsider, however, and passed by the exact number needed for a two-thirds majority on Friday. On that day, however, Rep. Clark voted "P" for present but did not vote one way or the other on the issue. Opponents are claiming this left the vote short of the two-thirds majority. Speaker Buddie Newman was to rule on the question.

In the meantime, it was held over again until Monday for reconsideration; but on Monday, apparently in some amount of confusion, the House adjourned shortly after convening without ever considering the calendar for the day. So there it lay.

## Guest opinion . . .

## Former Cowboy talks about drinking

From "The Lifeline," First Church, Pampa, Texas

This testimony is from the sports section of the Dallas Morning News. It has been shortened to fit into our newsletter but the essence of the article has not been changed.

For Bob Lilly, 1980 was the best of years and the worst of years. That summer, he was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the only original Dallas Cowboy to receive that honor. That fall, however, he felt so bad he wondered if he would live to see 1981.

"The doctors kept saying, 'Bob, you seem to be in perfect health,' " he recalled. "I'd say, 'If I am, I'd sure hate to be feeling bad.' I looked like a ghost, I was scared I was going to die."

Finally he learned what was ailing him. Physically, he was suffering from a hiatal hernia. Spiritually, he said he was traveling through life on a dangerously low tank.

"I became a born-again Christian," he said. "Now I have a lot of peace and happiness I never had before."

His sincerity comes through as his intensity on the football field once did. Bob Lilly at 43 is much like he was. There has been no radical change in his personality and character, just an added dimension. He talks softly and sincerely, whether the subject is football, faith, family or finances.

Football, which made his name famous, remains a pleasant part of his life. But the beer business, which made him a millionaire, is the past.

"I was driving back to Waco and stopped at the scene of a wreck," he said. "There were a couple of young boys in a pick-up truck and I went over to see if I could help them. Some empty Coors cans rolled out. Right then I realized I shouldn't be in the beer business. I had been a celebrity and had a lot of influence on young people. It was incredible how much money we were making but I was convinced it was time to sell the business."

Lilly, who was born a Baptist, converted to Catholicism after he had begun attending early mass with Cowboy roommate George Andrie. He said he appreciated the value of Christianity, but says, "I was a believer; I wasn't a practitioner." He says he has no complaints about Catholicism, but he has returned to the Baptist church and feels at home there.

He had noticed the change in his wife who became a born-again Christian 4 1/2 years ago, and was inspired.

"I saw the joy that came in her life," he said, "and I told her, 'Ann, I don't know what you've got, but I want it.'"

"At first, I thought it would pass. But it has grown. I found a different life."

## The issue is gambling, not racing

The House Ways and Means Committee last week heard testimony on a pari-mutuel gambling bill, H 480. Generally, those testifying in favor of the bill were about the same ones who testified two years ago when the issue was before the same committee. One surprise witness this year was a man identified as an evangelist from Raymond named Wayne Peters. He testified in favor of the pari-mutuel gambling bill, but there was no denominational affiliation mentioned or documentation of his ministry offered.

Peters said there is nothing in the Bible that is contrary to horse racing, and very likely that is correct. If there is a mention at all of horse racing in the Bible, it doesn't come to mind immediately. This bill, however, just uses horse racing as a tool in order to accomplish the main objective, which is gambling.

The gambling proponents kept insisting that it is a horse race bill, but the fact is contrary to that. It is a gambling bill.

Peters said there is no spiritual, moral, or otherwise negative aspects to horse racing, and this is true. The problem comes in the gambling. He added that he represents one who experienced death that we might have life and cited the need to see that Christ is exalted in everything we do. Certainly we all agree, but he didn't

explain how pari-mutuel gambling would exalt Christ.

The opponents of the gambling bill were organized by Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. Among those testifying was Larry Braidfoot, a staff member with the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. He is an expert on gambling problems.

Police Chief W. H. Pope of Pascagoula also was represented by a statement read by another person in the department. His statement opposed pari-mutuel gambling.

Another bill of interest to Missis-

issippi Baptists was the one on raising the legal age for drinking beer and light wine. This bill came out of a subcommittee by a vote of 3 to 2, as noted last week. In the Senate judiciary committee it was amended to raise the age to 19 instead of 21 and passed to the floor of the Senate. Now that the bill is on the floor of the Senate and the amendment is on it, the bill doesn't need to be defeated. It needs to be amended again to raise the age back up to 21. Hopefully, that is what will happen.

Those interested in raising the age limit to only 19 keep talking about the problems of enforcement, but that is not a reasonable consideration. We don't establish laws according to

whether or not we can enforce them. If we did, anarchy would result. We establish laws according to what is right or wrong about the issue. And statistics prove that raising the age for legal drinking, even that of beer and light wine, lowers the accident rate for those left below the age limit.

A point of interest as far as the bill is concerned that would raise the legal drinking age for beer and light wine from 18 to whatever is the final outcome is that it was subcommittee chairman Con Maloney who first suggested making the higher drinking age 19 instead of 21. Maloney, of course, owns the Jackson Mets baseball franchise and sells beer at the stadium.

## Mississippi missions giving is second highest in history

Mississippi Baptist giving to the Cooperative Program totaled \$1,467,381 in February, the second highest month's giving in convention history, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The highest figure was tallied in

June 1983 when Cooperative Program income was \$1,508,186.

January and February giving for 1984 total \$2,815,853, which is 17.1 percent of the total 1984 budget. A pro rata share for the first two months would be \$2,747,500. This means that giving is ahead of the pro rata amount by \$68,353. The 1984 budget is

\$16,485,000.

More than one-third of all gifts from Mississippi Baptist churches to the Cooperative Program are sent to SBC causes outside the state. The rest funds the leadership training operations of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and the other agencies of the convention.

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# The Baptist Record

## Single adult retreat to feature the Smiths

## 13,000 make decisions in two Luzon crusades

MANILA, Philippines (BP)—More than 13,000 people made professions of faith in Christ during two Baptist evangelism crusades on the island of Luzon in January.

Missionaries believe the political and economic instability that has become widespread during the past few months has heightened the people's openness to the gospel.

Seventeen new churches were formed and plans were made for 30 others during one crusade, in which 56 American preachers and Southern Baptist missionaries from outside the country worked with national pastors and missionaries in the Philippines.

A total of 8,288 people were reported to have made decisions for Christ and 421 were baptized during this church-planting effort. The two-week period was divided equally between evangelistic meetings and doctrinal studies.

Seven pastors and seven laymen from America helped produce 5,050 decisions for Christ in a simultaneous, more localized campaign in central Luzon. At its closing services 117 people were baptized.

In Olongapo on the Subic Bay, site of one of the United States' largest overseas naval bases, 1,150 decisions were reported in one church. In another church, which uses four un-

paid pastors, 30 baptisms resulted from 90 decisions.

Southern Baptist missionaries compare such evangelistic success on Luzon to a similar occurrence several years ago during unrest on Mindanao, the Philippines' other main island.

Many of the 100 American evangelists scheduled to participate in the larger crusade canceled their plans as foreign media sent home pictures of turmoil in the streets of Manila.

Parts of Manila have been the scene of protests by Filipino minority political factions, which rallied together after the unexplained August slaying of government opposition leader Benigno Aquino.

Amid these uncertainties, Southern Baptist missionaries and national Baptists are stepping up their evangelistic witness.

"The difficulty gives us a greater opportunity of sharing what God does in Christ," said Les Hill, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines.

Missionaries are free to propagate the gospel in the Philippines, except in extremely rare cases where safety becomes a factor—such as when government troops move in on armed opposition groups hiding in rural areas. "My own impression is that

we'll never have a freer time than we do now," said Hill. "We're free to go anywhere and preach anywhere."

"Things are not nearly as disrupted as they appear to people outside the country," he added. Most mob-related turmoil is confined to certain sections of Manila, Hill said. And most actual military action against political insurgents occurs in remote, mountainous areas.



Charles and Ann Smith

The annual Single Adult Retreat, at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly sponsored by the Christian Action Commission, will be May 18-20.

Program personalities this year will include Ann Alexander Smith, singles leader, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; Charles E. Smith, psychologist and author,

Nashville; Dan Crawford, author, and staff member of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta; and Faye Burgess, recording artist and Christian musician, Nashville.

Reservations for the weekend should be made by sending \$25 per person to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, Miss., 39571. This will be applied to the total cost.

Cost for persons staying in the A Unit (2 persons to a room) will be \$53 per person. Those staying in the C Unit (2-4 per room) will be \$48 50 per person. This includes room and meals.

Inquiries concerning the program should be made to the Christian Action Commission, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; phone, 968-3800. Paul G. Jones, II, is the executive director-treasurer.

## Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting March 19-20, 1984

First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg  
Praying . . . Ministering



Mrs. Dent  
WMU president



Mrs. Roweton  
Recording Artist

**MONDAY EVENING** Presiding, Mrs. Robert Dent  
6:45 Prelude Mrs. Bob Simmons and Mrs. Guy Henderson  
7:00 Hymns of Praise Mrs. Ellen Roweton, Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Henderson  
BIBLE STUDY Kathryn Carpenter  
Prayer Mrs. Claude Fortenberry  
Greetings Bobby Chain, Peter McLeod, Mrs. Peggy Huey, Joel D. Ray

Business  
WOMEN IN MINISTRY Mrs. Bruce Allen  
Offertory Hymn  
Offertory Prayer Sue Tatum  
Offering  
Testimony in Song Mrs. Roweton  
PARTNERSHIP IN PRAYER AND MINISTRY Carolyn Weatherford  
How to pray for missionaries . . . on the field Mrs. Charles Whitten  
Postlude Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Henderson

**TUESDAY MORNING** Presiding, Mrs. Dent  
8:30 Missionary Prayer Breakfasts Led by Mrs. Charles Whitten, Room 220; Mrs. Thomas Thurman, Room 224; and Miss Georgia Mae Ogburn, Room 225  
9:15 Prelude Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Henderson  
Hymns of Praise Mrs. Roweton, Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Henderson  
BIBLE STUDY Miss Carpenter  
Prayer Mrs. James Fancher  
MINISTERING THROUGH LOVE Mary Dan Kuhnle

Recognition of parents of missionaries Mrs. Charles Tyler  
Offertory Hymn  
Offertory Prayer Mrs. Richie Perkins  
Offering  
Testimony in Song Mrs. Roweton  
WHO? ME? A WITNESS? Mrs. Bruce Allen  
How to pray for missionaries . . . on furlough Mrs. Thomas Thurman  
Postlude Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Henderson

LUNCHEON HONORING PARENTS OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONARIES

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON** Presiding, Mrs. Charles Tyler  
1:15 Prelude Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Henderson  
1:30 Hymns of Praise Mrs. Roweton, Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Henderson  
BIBLE STUDY Miss Carpenter  
Prayer Mrs. Lucy Clinton  
MINISTERING IN THE CANARY ISLANDS Charles Whitten  
Hymn  
MINISTERING THROUGH MISSISSIPPI WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION Marjean Patterson and state WMU staff  
Testimony in song Mrs. Roweton  
MINISTERING THROUGH THE CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAM Julius Thompson  
How to pray for missionaries . . . who are retired Georgia Mae Ogburn  
Postlude Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Henderson

**TUESDAY NIGHT** Presiding, Mrs. Dent  
6:45 Prelude Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Henderson  
7:00 Hymns of Praise Mrs. Roweton, Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Henderson  
BIBLE STUDY Miss Carpenter  
Prayer Mrs. Wesson Burge  
MISSISSIPPI MKs Panel—composed of Susan Ballard, Paraguay; Noemi Gonzalez, Mississippi; Amy Frederick, Guadeloupe; Mark Merritt, Europe  
Led by Mrs. Ashley McCaleb

Testimony in word and song Mrs. Roweton  
THEN AND NOW IN THE PHILIPPINES Mrs. Bob Simmons and Mrs. Guy Henderson  
How to pray for missionaries . . . when their service is interrupted Mrs. Bob Magee  
Benediction Mrs. Robert Dent  
Postlude Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Henderson

## 'SBC Forum' to offer pre-convention option

By Dan Martin

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—The "SBC Forum," a meeting aimed at pastors and other ministers, is being planned to offer "another pre-convention option" for messengers to the 1984 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Forum, being organized by a loosely-knit group of pastors, will be in the 2,000-seat Music Hall of the Roe Bartle Convention Center in Kansas City, 1:30-5 p.m., Monday, June 11.

"The forum is not an attempt to preempt any other pre-convention meeting," said Bill Bruster, pastor of Central-Bearden Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., and publicity chairman for the event. "The Forum is an attempt to provide a meeting for those messengers not attending any other pre-convention gathering."

Bruster said the Forum is not a second Pastors' Conference, the traditional pre-convention meeting which draws upward of 10,000 participants. This year's meeting, presided over by Charles F. Stanley,

pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, will meet in the Convention Center Sunday afternoon and Monday, June 10 and 11.

Other sessions preceding the annual meeting June 12-14 include the Woman's Missionary Union-SBC, and specialized gatherings for religious educators, music ministers, directors of missions, student workers, and women in ministry.

"It is believed a significant segment is not being represented or attending any of the pre-convention meetings," Bruster said. "The SBC Forum is Southern Baptists speaking to Southern Baptists. It is not a split off anything."

Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, and immediate past second vice president of the SBC, will preside at the SBC Forum.

"I was asked to preside and I agreed to do simply because I personally would like to see a positive

(Continued on page 4)

## Home missions support

# Annie Armstrong Offering channeled to areas of need

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The 1984 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal, set for \$29 million, will be distributed in three major areas: support of missionaries and field ministries, support of special projects and advance in critical areas.

The largest allocation, \$18.8 million, supports missionaries and field ministries. These are on-going and continuing ministries.

The area of missionaries and field ministries is broken down into eight categories: evangelism projects, church extension, Christian social ministries, language missions, interfaith witness, black church relations, chaplaincy ministries and associational missions.

Evangelism projects, allocated \$1,495,000, will support state directors of evangelism in newer states that are unable to provide their own funding.

On-going ministries under special projects include lay witnessing, evangelism in metropolitan areas, evangelism with associational leaders, youth evangelism, media evangelism and consultant evangelism with special interest groups. Some conferences will also be funded.

Church Extension will receive \$4 million from the offering allocations. This money will support the work of missionaries in Baptist centers, weekday ministries, youth and family services and literacy missions. It will provide disaster relief and some special interest conferences, and will support ministries with seasonal farm workers.

A sum of \$6,100,000, designated for language missions, will support mis-

sionaries ministering to Hispanics, Europeans, Asians, Caribbeans and American Indians.

Interfaith witness, a program designed to increase Southern Baptist awareness of world religions and cults, will receive \$338,000.

Black church relations, allocated \$940,000, will support missionaries, youth workers, campus ministries, camps and assemblies and special projects.

A total of \$188,000 is allocated to chaplaincy ministries. This money will assist chaplains at the Mayo Clinic and ministry among military personnel.

Associational missions will receive \$2,900,000 funding associational directors of missions in rural-urban and metropolitan areas and assisting in the development of associations in newer areas of Southern Baptist work.

The second major area of distribution allocates \$3,200,000 to support special 33 short-term Home Mission Board projects that are not part of the HMB's on-going work. In most cases, these projects involve people, but not career missionaries.

The summer missionary program will receive \$520,000 to pay the expenses and salaries of 750 summer missionaries in 1985.

A sum of \$190,000 will fund Mega-City projects. One project to receive funding will assist Southern Baptists in greater Los Angeles as they plan 150 new Southern Baptist missions, increasing the number of present congregations by nearly 50 percent.

According to Earl Crawford, director of missions of the Calvary-Arrowhead Baptist Association, the

birth of 150 new congregations should only be the starting point in reaching the 11 1/2 million population.

A portion of the \$190,000 designated for work in Puerto Rico and American Samoa will be used to start new churches and provide seminary training for the Puerto Ricans.

The Margaret Fund, a scholarship program funded through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, provides educational scholarships for missionary children. In 1984, this fund will receive \$210,000.

The third area, advance in critical areas, will be allocated \$7 million and will fund new areas of home mission work.



## Gulf Youth Choir Fest

Bill Bacon, guest clinician, and Minister of Music at Clinton, directs the mass choir of the annual Gulf Coast Youth Choir Festival held recently at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. Total registration was 261, representing 10 churches. The festival was sponsored by the Gulf Coast Baptist Music Association, a group of music ministers from coast-area churches. Arnold Bridges, Handsboro Church, Gulfport, is president, and Randy Cuchens, Arlington Heights Church, Pascagoula, served as festival coordinator.

# 'SBC Forum' to offer pre-convention option

(Continued from page 3)

approach to providing help and encouragement for pastors," Garrison said.

"I remember the day when I looked forward to the annual Pastors' Conference as a place for inspiration and affirmation. Recent years, I believe, have seen the conference become merely a revivalistic religio-political platform.

"Our program will be entirely non-political and completely positive. It will provide a clear alternative for those who come to Kansas City seeking this kind of fellowship and proclamation," Garrison said. He added the SBC Forum will not be "a lot of pulpit pounding harangue, but substantive preaching."

Henry Crouch, pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, N. C., who has been working to plan the Forum, said the program "has not yet been completely put together," but said four persons have agreed to speak.

Major messages will be delivered by Kenneth L. Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church of Houston; David L. Matthews, pastor of First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C.; Duke K. McCall, president of the Baptist World Alliance and chancellor of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; and Kirby Godsey, president of Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

Godsey replaces the previously announced J. Gordon Kingsley, president of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., who withdrew.

Another feature will be a "pro and con discussion" on ordination of women. Although several prominent SBC leaders have been approached to take part in the program, presenters of the opposing views have not been named, Couch said. "This will not be a debate, but just a presentation of points of view," he explained.

Chafin told Baptist Press he agreed to participate in the program only if the "program addressed itself to the ordinary needs of the pastor and his staff, if there is nothing political—said or unsaid—about the program, and if it would not be supportive of the agencies and institutions of the denomination.

"I did not have any part in the planning of the meeting," Chafin said. "But I think it is pretty obvious for a number of years that the Pastors' Conference has been used as a platform for political operation."

He added he believes the Pastor's Conference in the past several years "has had a very limited perspective and a very narrow modeling of the pastorate."

Bruster echoed Chafin's remarks, noting he believes the Pastors' Conference "has been far too politicized... far too much a preaching marathon. I am not interested in going and hearing the same people say virtually the same thing year after year.

"I haven't really found anything that has been helpful to my ministry or to help me to be a better pastor. Not everybody can grow a humongous church and when I was a pastor in a town of 5,000, I would leave the Pastors' Conference feeling like a failure because I wasn't running 2,000 in Sunday school. I think we need another kind of affirmative model."

John Hewitt, pastor of Kirkwood Baptist Church in Kirkwood, Mo., who is local arrangements chairman, added he believes there are "many issues crucial to the ministry that are not being addressed by the Pastors' Conference.

"It seems we have had a succession of preachers preaching on evangelism. We feel there is more to pastoral ministry than evangelism, although that is very important," he said.

Hewitt said the organizers of the SBC Forum "are not staging a rump session. We are not seeking to take anyone away from the Pastors' Conference. But there are a lot of people who do not attend the Pastors' Conference because it does not meet their needs.

"We are not organizing a separate convention. I personally probably will go to the Pastors' Conference Sunday evening and Monday morning and probably Monday evening. But on Monday afternoon, I will go to the Forum and experience something a little different from what we have been getting in the past several years," he said.

Hewitt added, "There is no place for people who want to discuss things like worship, pastoral care, or administration. The Pastors' Conference has become a preaching conference. That's important, but not the only thing which should ever be done."

He added when the Forum concludes "we will go to the convention and participate as loyal messengers from loyal churches."

Bruster used a "local church analogy" to describe the Forum: "The SBC annual meeting is like the church and the pre-convention meetings are like Sunday School classes. Many church members (messengers) are not coming to Sunday School (the pre-convention meetings). The Forum is simply starting another Sunday School class for those who are not attending," he added.

(Dan Martin is Baptist Press news editor.)

## Guest housing available for Coast appointment service

Gulf Coast Baptists will be opening their homes to other Baptists from all over the state who will be in Biloxi April 10 for the Foreign Mission Board appointment service.

The night's lodging for individuals or families attending the service is free of charge. In order to be registered for the service, however, those desiring to be housed in private homes need to have their requests in no later than April 3, according to Gerald H. Walker, pastor of Lizana Church, Gulfport, and chairman of the guest housing committee.

Requests for housing need to be completed on the form below and addressed as follows:

Gerald H. Walker, Chairman  
Guest Housing  
11 Barrone, Rt. 6  
Gulfport, Miss. 39503  
The telephone number is (601) 832-5006.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the following:

Number in party \_\_\_\_\_ Couple \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children \_\_\_\_\_

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Single Individual \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ or Female \_\_\_\_\_

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# Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

## "The Life Beautiful"

Two flags framed the platform at First Church, Canton, on Feb. 26—American and Brazilian. Notes of the "Star Spangled Banner" sounded. Then on the piano David P. Appleby Jr. played Brazil's national anthem. He is professor of piano at Eastern University, Charleston, Ill., and had come to Canton that day because this church was celebrating his mother's 89th birthday, and the 60th anniversary of her going as a missionary to Brazil.

When W. D. and I arrived, the only vacant place left for us to sit was on second row, by the honoree, Rosalee Mills Appleby, and her son, and her "dear friend and almost daughter," Edelweiss Kaschel.

A slide presentation showed family pictures and scenes from her 36 years in Brazil. Rosalee Mills was born Feb. 26, 1895, in Oxford, Miss., the fifth child of 12. In 1906, she was baptized in a creek near Duck Hill. College degrees she obtained in Oklahoma from Central State Teacher's and OBU. Then at WMU Training School in Louisville, Ky., she met David P. Appleby of Springfield, Mo., whom she married Aug. 4, 1924. That fall they arrived in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, as missionaries. Only a year later, Oct. 15, 1925, he died. And a few hours after her husband's death, her son was born. (I have visited Mr. Appleby's grave in Belo and seen engraved on it the Portuguese words of John 3:16.)

Rosalee stayed on in Brazil, ministering through her writing, working with children, establishing many missions and churches, and being counselor and "mother" to many Brazilians. Since her retirement in 1960, she has lived in Canton. There she has continued to be a missionary through her writing, her letters, her distribution of tracts and tapes, and most of all, through her prayers.

Her love and concern for Brazil has daily grown deeper, but she shows the same love for all those around her whose lives touch hers. As Edelweiss said, "Perhaps her greatest trait is loving and trusting other people." (Mrs. Kaschel, a Brazilian of Dutch and Swiss-German lineage, sometimes lived in Mrs. Appleby's home in Brazil. Now she and her husband, Walter, live in Ohio. He was interpreter for Billy Graham in Brazil, and they are translators for Rex Hubbard's television programs in Brazil.) And as Ary Silva, her Brazilian "son," once said, "Her letters, oh, what a wealth of God-given wisdom and spiritual depth!"

Birthday greetings came by video tape from the Foreign Mission Board and by letter from the state WMU and the state Baptist convention board. Mrs. Frances Stewart led the invocation, giving God the praise for this beautiful life. Mrs. Maurine Estes talked about the far-reaching influence of Mrs. Appleby's writings—books, essays, tracts, poetry—and said, "The rich gift of her pen is an extension of her life that will continue on and on and on." Among her books



Rosalee Mills Appleby and her son, David Appleby.

are *The Melody of God, Rainbow Gleams, Orchids and Edelweiss, Wings Against the Blue, Flaming Fagots, White Wings of Splendor, The Queenly Quest*. (Many of them are out of print. If anyone has copies of the older ones, I might like to buy them!) I remember at age 11 first reading in *World Comrades* about her and her work in Belo Horizonte, and that she had written a book on the high ideals of the Christian life, *The Life Beautiful*. I never forgot that write-up, though I didn't dream that in 1970 I would interview her for the *Baptist Record* and that, from that day, she would become one of my dearest friends. Because she helped me so much with facts about Brazil and with manuscript reading, etc., during the years I was writing *David Gomes: When Faith Triumphs*, I dedicated the book to her. David Gomes is another of her Brazilian "sons."

Her prayers and her letters have been a never-failing encouragement to me in my efforts to write, and I have seen in her an example I have longed to follow—for she lives "The Life Beautiful."

The Sanctuary Choir sang "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations," the hymn one of her sisters sang at her wedding 60 years ago. Children of the church sang "Happy birthday," and crowded around her for hugs and kisses.

In his message, "Sacrifice and Service," the pastor, Louis Smith, read selections from Mrs. Appleby's own written words. In one, she remembered the summer of 1917, when at an Oklahoma Baptist assembly she fully committed her life to the Lord. Words of J. W. Jent then made a deep impression on her: "God is all-wise and cannot make a mistake. He is all-loving and would not make a mistake. Whatever he has for your life, there you will be the happiest and do the most good."

"How could I preach a sermon today?" Smith asked. "The sermon started a long time ago. Here sits the sermon. Her life is the sermon."

## Appointment service

Editor:

Mississippi Baptists have a tremendous opportunity on April 10 to attend an appointment service of the Foreign Mission Board. It will be held at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum in Biloxi.

Mississippi Baptists will be involved in all kinds of activities on April 10, but I hope they will mark that Tuesday as a day to show their support for Foreign Missions by attending this service. If "Bold Mission Thrust" is to be a mission venture, then every Christian must consider the possibility of God's call to foreign missions. One of the goals for BMT was to have 5,000 career missionaries by the year 2000. We will never reach such a goal unless we honestly seek God's will and be honestly open to the directive of the Great Commission.

I encourage pastors, and R.A., G.A., Acteen, WMU, and Brotherhood leaders to mark April 10 on their calendars and commit themselves to taking an afternoon off to attend this appointment service.

Eddie Graves  
SBC missionary to Chile

## The place of women

Editor:

During the next few weeks, thousands of Southern Baptists will be involved in the annual home missions study as a part of the Week of Prayer for Home Missions. Excellent materials have been prepared by the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and the Woman's Missionary Union as a part of the study.

In the adult book entitled *WE SPELL MISSIONS A\*M\*E\*R\*I\*C\*A*, there is a section which includes comments on ordination of women. It gives the personal testimony of one young woman who is a student at a Baptist seminary who felt God's call to Christian service and sought ordination.

I regret that the mission study book implied that the Home Mission Board approves ordination of women, even though it did not say so directly.

The Home Mission Board has taken no position on the question of ordination of women, believing that ordination is a local church matter. Ordination is not a qualification for appointment as a missionary by the Home Mission Board for either men or women. The statements in the mission study book reflect only the personal viewpoints of the writer and persons quoted, not official policy of the Home Mission Board.

There is also a quote which I feel we have used inappropriately. The quotation from a seminary professor states, "... On foreign soil Southern Baptist women such as Lottie Moon have achieved virtually sainthood for performing roles for which they would have been ostracized in the U.S. From West Africa to East Asia, missionary women are ordained and preach and pastor regularly. That fact of foreign missions needs to be acknowledged openly."

This quotation from an address by the professor appears here out of its original context. As president of the

Home Mission Board, I feel that this is inaccurate if applied to our Southern Baptist foreign mission work; and it was inappropriate for the Home Mission Board to publish such a comment. I regret any problem this may cause either the Foreign Mission Board or the professor.

William G. Tanner,  
President  
Home Mission Board, SBC

## Church-state separation

Editor:

Thank you for the outstanding job you are doing with our paper. I am particularly pleased with the editorial page.

It takes an unusual degree of understanding and courage to remain true to the historic Baptist position of absolute separation of church and state. This position is the only position one can sustain under the constitution. It is also the teaching of scripture. It is likewise the Baptist tradition from our very beginnings in this country. It is, in my opinion, the only safe course to follow today.

It is easy to be blinded by the conservative line that either intentionally or unintentionally would have us use the arm of the government to foster our particular religious persuasion. The future use of that power, once the precedent is set, could prove to be adverse to our own views. Government, therefore, must follow a neutral course that on the one hand will not "establish" any one religious view or even a religious view in general. On the other hand, such neutral course will not prohibit the "free exercise" of many diverse religious views. It is a difficult course, but we must follow it at all costs.

Eugene H. Stockstill  
Jackson

## Tuition tax credits

Editor:

Your negative letter on private school tuition expresses feeling contrary to many Southern Baptists that I know. My children are now in college; but when they were in a private school and while we were, and still are, paying taxes for public school "education"—the state of Mississippi took all the state textbooks, which every child in the state is supposed to be entitled to, and burned them. Sound like Russia? Well, your

editorial makes about that much sense.

I for one, stand behind President Reagan working for this cause, and for the worthy cause of allowing prayer in school. Your justification of the opposition to this matter is unbiblical. Why don't you look at these matters again? In the future, your editorials will be looked at more closely by all of us. Maybe you need to be the editor of a 'liberal newspaper.'

June Thaggard  
Maddeh

## A critical point

Editor:

This state and nation of ours is at a critical point as far as the Christian life is concerned. The morals of the media and government, two giants in influence and leadership, have degraded to a point which God will not condone in a nation which was originally founded on the highest of morals and Christian principles. It is now not just a matter of choosing whether to get involved in political affairs affecting public decisions of morals, but it has become the duty and responsibility of all Christians. Each step made may seem like a small step to some; but if it is a step toward a more just nation, then it is a tremendous step for all Christians today.

We would like to give Mississippi Baptists the opportunity to share in one of these "small" steps, a step which we feel extremely strongly about. This concerns a petition being circulated against pardoning of prisoners or the suspension of sentences of convicted criminals. (An item concerning petition is to be found on page 9.)

We urge readers not to let this slide by without their consideration. We do not ask them to blindly sign this petition but that they seek God's will concerning it. If it is then their decision to become a part of this, we would ask them to urge their pastors or local sheriff's departments to begin circulating the petition locally.

Name withheld by request

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# ACTS and Baptist TelNet are not the same

## Baptist TV is confusing; many things happening

Southern Baptists' move into television programming is about as confusing as it is exciting.

At the same moment in history, two separate systems with separate purposes, separate supervision, and separate methods of delivery, are being developed, ACTS and Baptist TelNet. ACTS begins May 15, BTN begins June 1.

In addition, there is a third video-instructional system which overlaps a bit with one of the other two: Video Tape Service.

The chart below is an attempt to delineate among the three systems: ACTS, Baptist TelNet, and Video Tape Service. If you are still confused after reading this, contact Farrell Blankenship, Broadcast Services Director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, phone 968-3800.

Blankenship can explain all this and can tell individuals and churches how to become involved in making ACTS, BTN, and VTS available for their people.

## Here are the differences among ACTS, BTN, VTS

### Purpose

**ACTS:** To offer quality religious and family-oriented programming directly into American homes.

**BTN:** To provide information, training, and inspirational programs to be integrated into ongoing church activities.

**VTS:** To provide educational, training, informational, and inspirational programs to the local church and association.

### Types of programming

**ACTS:** Country music-talk, children's programs, crusade services, dramas with a Christian perspective, sports.

**BTN:** Sunday School lesson previews, marriage enrichment, Bibles studies, special leadership training programs.

**VTS:** Same general programming as BTN, with helps for special problems like how a small church starts a church council.

### Delivery system

**ACTS:** Programs will be beamed from the Radio-Television Commission's studios in Fort Worth to an orbiting satellite and picked up by either full power or low power television stations, or by cable companies which will provide channel space. Programming will go directly into homes on television.

**BTN:** Programs will be beamed from the studios of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville to churches and associations which subscribe to the service. There the programs may be taped for later replay to leadership groups or others in the church or association.

**VTS:** Training videotapes are available now for distribution to churches directly through state convention offices, film centers and Broadman Sales. More than 100 titles are in stock today.

### Equipment needed

**ACTS:** 16' Satellite Receiving Dish connected to either high or low power station, or cable to your home TV.

**BTN:** 10' Satellite Receiving Dish, with BTN Receiver, Decoder (comes with subscription rate), 1/2" VHS Video Cassette Recorder, and TV.

**VTS:** 1/2" VHS Video Cassette Recorder and T.V.

### Administration

**ACTS:** The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, Tex. has developed a separately incorporated ACTS board which is making applications for low power licenses from the Federal Communication. This ACTS Board deals with local ACTS Boards which determines the local programming.

**BTN:** The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville owns and operates Baptist TelNet, offering the programming on a subscriber basis.

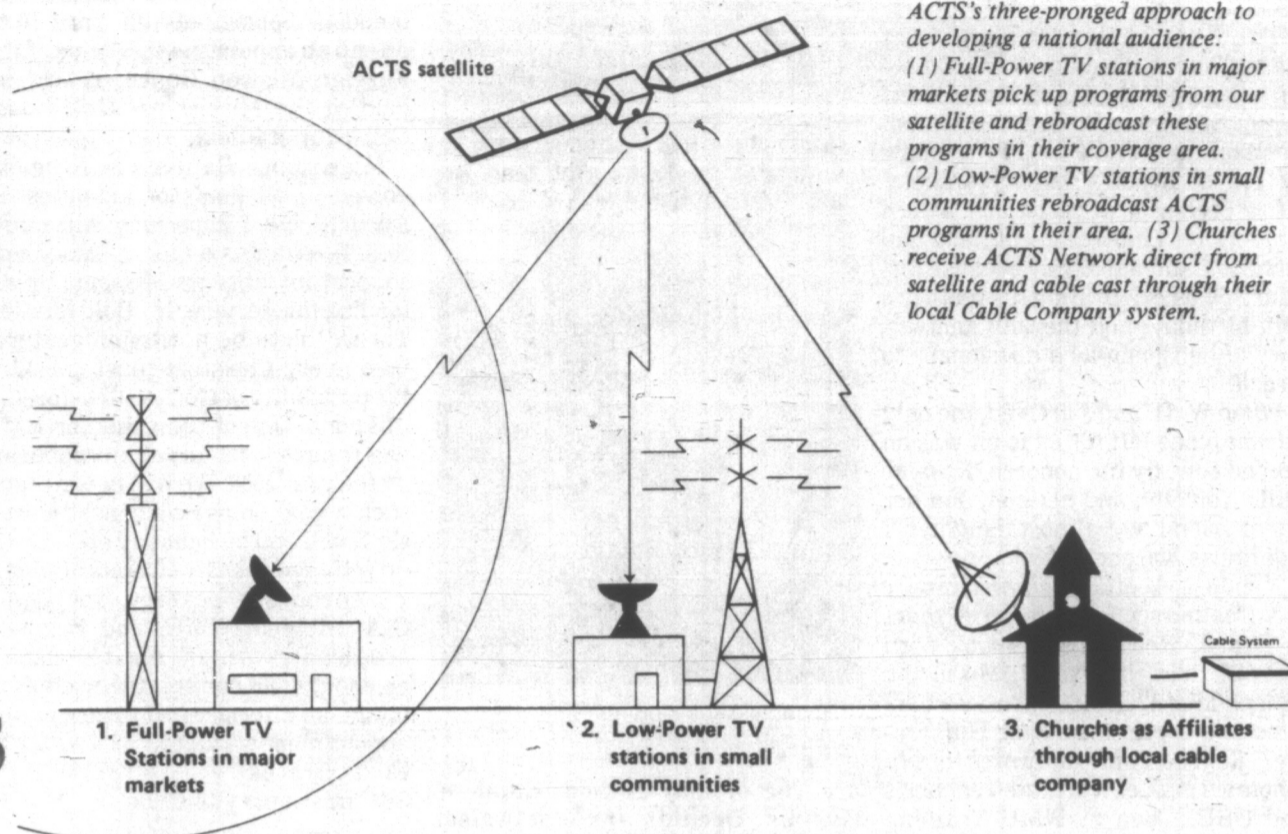
**VTS:** An ad hoc committee composed of Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the MBCB, Joe Ingram of Oklahoma, Dick Stephenson of the Virginia convention, and agency and state representatives operate Video Tape Service.

### Funding

**ACTS:** Corporation grants in exchange for "commercial recognitions" during program breaks, flat fees for stations and 10 cents per church member for ACTS board member churches, Cooperative Program, direct mail, and donations.

**BTN:** Yearly fees based on resident church membership from a low of \$396 to a maximum of \$2,096.

**VTS:** Budget items in a group of state conventions including Mississippi which underwrite production costs.



## In Mississippi

# Satellite systems are installed

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE—Two satellite telecommunications systems have been installed in Mississippi and a third is in process to link the first churches in the state with Baptist TelNet (BTN), the Sunday School Board's new teaching and training network which will begin broadcasting in June 1984.

Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, was the first Mississippi church to have a BTN system installed. Joe H. Tuten is pastor.

Another system was installed at Mississippi College for the Hinds-Madison Association, according to J. W. Brister, director of missions, who predicted the small churches of the association will find the training materials useful.

This system is the property of the association, but was installed on the Mississippi College campus because equipment and personnel are available to monitor and tape programs. Billy Lytle, dean at the college, said the college was happy to cooperate with the Hinds-Madison Association because of the valuable teaching potential for students who will be able to work with the system.

The third system, at Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo, was delayed during installation because of a roof leak which was discovered during preliminary work to anchor the base of the receiving antenna. Work was expected to be completed soon on the Harrisburg BTN system.

BTN will begin broadcasting in June with four to six hours of daily programming. Included will be programs to help Sunday school teachers,

church training leaders, deacons and church staff members.

Several agencies of the denomination, including the Home Mission Board, will provide programs to be broadcast on BTN to keep Southern Baptists abreast of current events in missions, stewardship, and education. Some of the programs are expected to be broadcast live.

Information about purchase of a

system may be obtained from the Broadman sales department of the Sunday School Board. Several thousand churches are expected to purchase the equipment over the next two or three years to participate in the new network, according to Joe Denney, manager of telecommunications at the Sunday School Board.

(Lowry writes for the Sunday School Board.)



"Country Crossroads" hosts Bill Mack (left) and Jerry Clower of Yazoo City, wave to the audience during recent videotaping of the new TV version of the popular country music show. Produced by the Radio and Television Commission, the weekly one-hour musical variety show will present songs and testimonies by country music stars to viewers of the American Christian Television System. (Photo by Ken Beazley.)

# FCC places 52 of ACTS TV applications in lottery

By Greg Warner

FORT WORTH, TEXAS—The Federal Communications Commission has cleared the way for 52 of the American Christian Television System's 100-plus low-power TV applications to be determined by lottery, a move which ACTS president Jimmy R. Allen said will speed development of the Southern Baptist network.

"We are seeing a breakthrough in the low-power TV backlog," Allen said. "We have been saying we would have low-power as a major part of the ACTS strategy, and now that is proving true."

ACTS began applying for low-power TV stations in January 1981 and had as many as 135 applications pending before the FCC at one time. But with a total 12,000 filings for the new TV service, the FCC's processing has been unable to keep up with the demand. In order to speed the process, in September the FCC began using a lottery system of random selection to decide between two or more applicants for the same low-power channel.

## Lottery wins

ACTS has won each time a lottery has been held, having been chosen to build low-power stations in Brownwood, Tex., Anchorage, Alaska; and Honolulu so far. The FCC's recent action, assigning 52 ACTS applications to the lottery, will mean many more stations likely will be awarded ACTS in coming months.

"This is one more indication momentum is building for the launch of the ACTS network in May," said Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission which is assembling the network. "Our programming is on schedule, the financing is in place and support from the broadcasting and cable TV industries is mounting."

Allen said low-power television stations which broadcast with a maximum 1,000 watts and reach an area 10-15 miles in radius, are one part of the "hybrid" delivery system planned for ACTS, which will also use full-power (conventional) television and cable TV to deliver its family and Christian entertainment programs to American homes. Allen projects ACTS will reach 40 million people by the end of its first year.

In addition to the three TV stations authorized through the FCC's lottery, ACTS also is building low-power stations in Paragould, Ark., and Tyler, Texas. Another 115 applications still await FCC action. Two full-power TV stations are being built by Baptist groups in Greenville, N.C., and Houston, both of which will carry ACTS programs. Eight to ten other full-power stations are planned.

ACTS announced in December that 13 of the largest cable TV corporations in the country have agreed to carry ACTS on some of their local cable systems, representing a potential 9 million homes on cable alone.

Since that announcement, nine major trade magazines have carried articles about ACTS, which Allen said indicates mounting support for the effort from within the media establishment. CableVision, the leading cable TV magazine, ran a four-page cover article on the network Jan. 30.

"Like other cable networks, ACTS' success is likely to hinge on the quality of its programming," the article said. "Judging from demonstration tapes, in-house produced fare reflects high production values while preserving the evangelical flavor that runs throughout the network."

In a message delivered on videotape to Southern Baptist agency executives, Gene Linder, executive vice president of ATC, the nation's second largest cable TV company, endorsed ACTS' locally oriented approach to television. "ACTS has the potential of being one of the most influential delivery systems in our country today," he summarized.

Other developments indicate the television industry is taking ACTS seriously, Allen said. NBC will broadcast a one-hour TV special on the new network for May 20.

To support the network effort financially, ACTS will supplement Cooperative Program money with money from major corporations who underwrite ACTS programs in exchange for "commercial recognitions" during program breaks. Ron Dixon, RTVC vice president for media services, said the network is already negotiating with some of the country's largest companies, as well as with the leading ad agencies that handle corporate TV advertising.

On April 12, the day GTE Spacenet will launch the satellite to carry ACTS, dinner rallies will be held in more than 50 cities across the coun-

try. A live satellite broadcast will be carried on the Hi-Net system to preview ACTS programs for interested Baptists and non-Baptists, who will then be challenged to support the network financially.

"Any new enterprise is always in need of start-up money," Allen said. "However, the development programs of the Radio and Television Commission and the commitments of monies from donors give every indication the start-up money for the ACTS network is secure. Any apprehensions about the launch of ACTS in May are unfounded."

Allen added once ACTS is on the air the support from Southern Baptists and from the network itself will keep ACTS in good financial shape.

"Denominational programs, especially those as widespread and diversified as the Cooperative Program, simply are not equipped to birth great new things," Allen said. "We are equipped to support them and enlarge them, but not to birth them."

Allen reported there were some apprehensions about launch of ACTS when two communication satellites were lost recently during deployment from the space shuttle. The Spacenet I satellite, which will carry ACTS, is being placed in orbit April 12 by a French Ariane rocket to be launched from French Guiana in South America.

Rocket deployment is the traditional and proven method of getting satellites into space, Allen said. Concern for the ACTS satellite, while unfounded, point out the volatile nature of the communications industry, Allen said, but Southern Baptists have reason for confidence.

(Greg Warner writes for the Radio and Television Commission.)

## Broadcast ministries conference set in April

The annual National Conference on Broadcast Ministries will be held in Fort Worth, April 23-25.

This meeting will provide information concerning ACTS and Baptist TelNet Workshop settings will provide information on access to and usage of these two evangelistic and training tools.

The workshop will take place at the Amfac Hotel at the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. Registration through the RTVC is necessary. The registration fee, which includes seven workshop sessions, is \$45.

These workshops range from "How to Produce a TV Talk Show," to "Worship Service Directing Techniques," to "Administering BTN in Your Church."

Other sessions to choose from include "Equipment for Receiving ACTS/BTN," "Creative Fund Raising Assistance for Local ACTS Boards," "Church Musicals—Alive

on TV," and "How to Do a Revival Crusade." There are a total of 33 workshop sessions scheduled.

The hotel is providing special reduced room rates at \$49 for single, and \$54 for double.

This annual meeting is sponsored by the Radio and Television Commission, the Baptist Sunday School Board, and Southwestern, Southern, New Orleans, and Midwestern Seminaries.

At the end of this workshop, there will be an ACTS National Television Production Conference, April 25-26.

It includes 12 hours of concentrated training plus two meals for the cost of \$150. Choices include "Lighting Video Productions," "Post Production," and "Equipment and Maintenance," plus others.

For details on either meeting, contact Bonnie Wilson, Radio and Television Commission, phone (817) 737-4011.



Jeannette Clift George, best known for her portrayal of Corrie Ten Boom in "The Hiding Place," stars in a one-hour, one-woman dramatic special in the "In Concert" series for ACTS. (Photo by Kenneth Beazley.)

## Mississippi on edge

Mississippi Baptists are on the edge of participation in ACTS and Baptist TelNet, according to Farrell Blankenship, broadcast services director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Cities where ACTS boards are in process of negotiating with a cable operator include Tupelo, Cleveland, Yazoo City, Jackson and Clinton, Meridian, Pearl and Brandon, War-

ren County, Laurel, Hattiesburg, and McComb.

As for Baptist TelNet, Hinds-Madison, Lebanon, Jones, Lee, Rankin, and Gulf Coast counties are working toward involvement in BTN, and as noted in another story, Calvary Church, Jackson; Harrisburg, Tupelo; and Mississippi College (for Hinds-Madison) are setting up receiving dishes.

## Video Tape Service has more than 100 tapes

Video Tape Service was begun in 1981 to provide video information for training in churches and "to support the program structure of the church such as Church Training, Sunday School, and stewardship," says Doug Day, the service's only employee.

Day, who was hired to direct the video production, was minister of education at First Church, Starkville. Now he makes his home in the Fort Worth area where he has been using the facilities of the Radio and Television Commission . . . until now.

Now, says Day, because of the increased load because of ACTS, the VTS productions are made in several areas of the country, giving greater flexibility to the programming, he says.

Controlled by an ad hoc committee of several state conventions and agency representatives, Day's immediate supervisor is Earl Kelly, present chairman of the ad hoc committee, and executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Delivery system for these more than 100 titles of training tapes are still through state convention offices, film centers, and Broadman Sales. Farrell Blankenship, director of the

Broadcast Services Department of the MBCB, has a list of titles and will mail any tape on request to a church.

Day says that "down the road" the VTS productions will be a part of the Baptist TelNet system and will do some joint programming with the Sunday School Board. But for the present, he says the feeling is that it will be a number of years before a large number of churches will be able to receive the BTN programming, so a need exists for both delivery systems.

Part of Day's time has been spent in developing what are called video guides, helping a person who facilitates the program in the local church to interpret and lead in dialogue following the showing of a videotape. Day says this is a basic educational principle—that of involving people directly.

He notes that 75 percent of Southern Baptist churches have fewer than 400 members, so a number of tapes are developed with the small church in mind. Many churches, he says, need basic leadership information, such as how to start a church council.

Day says that perhaps another 150 tapes are in the offing, and VTS will be in existence for at least a couple more years.

## Just for the Record



LOVE, INC., a college ensemble, prepared and served a Valentine banquet for the senior adults of Calvary Church, Lamar County, near Hattiesburg. Nearly 50 senior adults attended and heard the handbell concert presented by Love, Inc. The oldest sweethearts present, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Thornton, right, (married 57 years) were recognized and presented a gift by Jim Jackson, left, minister of music and youth. Members of Love, Inc. are Pam Hill, Karen Rigby, Vicki Young, Bonnie Sanders, Sandra Nobles, Chip Hill, David Aultman, Cole Turner, and Mark Russell.

Another mission is being established in Jackson County. Griffin Street Church, under leadership of Pastor Athens McNeil, has voted to sponsor a mission to be located on Cumbest Bluff Road which is between Hwy 613 and Wade. This is the second mission to be sponsored by Griffin Street. The other was Pine Lake, which was organized into a church in 1979.

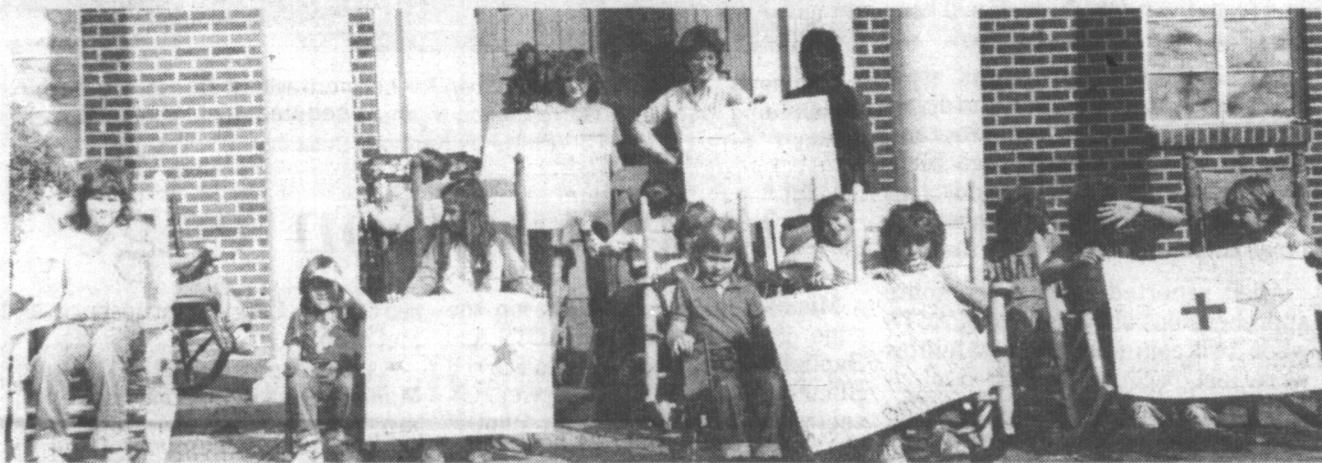
McNeil will serve as pastor during the first three months of the work. The mission was previously a small independent church which disbanded in order to enter a mission status.

Whoever plants a seed beneath the sod and waits to see it push away the clod—He trusts in God.—Elizabeth York Case



TUCKERS CROSSING CHURCH, Jones Association observed Woman's Missionary Union focus week, Feb. 12-18. "Put Your Heart into Missions" was the theme. On Sunday, Pastor Eddie Bryant, right, recognized the WMU director, Mrs. Fred (Lurline) Josey. Mrs. Kate Shows, Mission Support chairman, presented Mrs. Josey with a plaque honoring her for 50 years of dedicated work in WMU, and because of her love for missions. Mrs. Josey is presently serving as WMU and BW director in her church, as well as in leadership positions in Jones Association.

During the evening service, several gave testimonies about how WMU had influenced their lives. The sanctuary was decorated with hearts with the names of homebound members and others who have been very active. Active WMU members made 14 visits during the week to homebound members. They presented these women with a red rose, Valentine card, and book-mark bearing the name of a missionary from Mississippi.



GAs AND ACTEENS OF FIRST CHURCH, LEAKESVILLE, held a Rock-a-thon to raise money for the Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering. They raised \$500, reports Peggy Turner, their director.

## Iuka honors retired couple

A churchwide fellowship luncheon was held Jan. 15 at Iuka Church, honoring Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Wilson, in recognition of their work in the church and as missionaries. Gifts were presented to them.

Mrs. Wilson, the former Leola Woodley, is author of a book, *My Twenty Years as a Foreign Missionary*, in which she tells of her work in country evangelism and teaching in China; work with children in Hawaii; teaching in the Philippines; and as librarian and teacher in Puerto Rico.

She helped to start two schools—one in Ashland, Miss., and another in Manila, Philippines. In the States, she has been active in visiting shut-ins, and for a good many years she has managed the Dorcas Closet at the Iuka Church.

Wilson for over 20 years ministered to prisoners in ten prisons in three states. He reports that there were several professions of faith each time he made a trip to one of the prisons.

The couple, who married after retirement, have contributed numerous books to the Iuka Church library.

## Conference cancelled

The Dedicated Youth Conference at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, Mar. 9-10, has been cancelled.

## Revival Results

Graceland Church (Jackson County); church growth revival led by Donnie Guy, pastor of Woolmarket, Harrison County; highest attendance ever in Sunday School; doubled attendance in Church Training from the week before; 15 professions of faith—three young people and twelve adults; The revival was to end on Wednesday, but the church voted to extend an extra night; Craig Edwards, minister of music at Graceland, in charge of the music; Tom Byrge is pastor at Graceland since it started in a house as a mission.



Bobby Burgess, left, interim pastor at Iuka Church, chats with Leola and A. D. Wilson.

## Elderhostel enrollment will begin on March 9

Mississippi College in Clinton which serves as the state office for ELDERHOSTEL, has reminded adults over 60 throughout the state that the enrollment period for the 1984 summer program will begin on Friday, March 9.

Resident Elderhostelers on all participating campuses of the international program designed to meet the

intellectual needs of older citizens must register through the national ELDERHOSTEL office, and registrations will be accepted on a first-come basis. ELDERHOSTEL catalogs and registration forms are available at public libraries.

The Mississippi College ELDERHOSTEL curriculum will complement the New Orleans World's Fair theme, "The World of Rivers—Fresh Water as a Source of Life." Persons who register for the program prior to May 1 will have first option on a one-day excursion to the Fair at the conclusion of the week they choose.

During Week I, June 17-23, "Rivers of the Bible" will be taught by Charles S. Davis, associate professor of Bible.

"Exploring Mark Twain's Mississippi River" will be offered during Week I, June 17-23, and Week II, June 24-30. This course will be taught by Mrs. Virginia Quarles, a former teacher in Jackson Academy and in the Department of English at Mississippi College, where she taught American and English literature.

Those who wish to attend either as a commuter or as a resident may contact Mrs. Dorothy Carpenter in the Mississippi College Division of Continuing Education at 924-9766 for registration information.

## Missionaries on furlough

Missionaries on furlough in Mississippi are:

Tom and Gloria Thurman, Bangladesh, 416 Ford, Columbia 39429; Bobbye and Jerry Rankin, Southeast Asia, Pine Trails Apt. M-5, Spring Ridge Road, Clinton, 39056; Wayne and Florence Frederick, Guadeloupe, c/o Camp Creek Baptist Church, Rt. 2, Guntown, 38849;

Rachel Dubard, Liberia, Rt. 1, Box 87, Carrollton 38917; Charles and Indy Whitten, Equatorial Guinea, 207 S. Washington, Starkville 39759; Steven and Minnie Hicks, Mexico, 407 N. 38th Ave., Hattiesburg 39401.

Harry and Frances Raley will be arriving from Taiwan March 1, and John and Nell Smith from Indonesia on March 15. James and Dottie Gilbert will arrive from Panama April 4, Douglas Kellum from the Philippines April 10, and Mack and Marie Jones from Mexico April 27.

## Homecomings

Selmont Church, Selma, Ala.: April 29; homecoming day. The pastor, Byron Dekle, reports that "some people in Mississippi are former members of this church" and that the traditional homecoming day has been changed from the fourth Sunday of April (which is Easter this year) to the fifth Sunday.

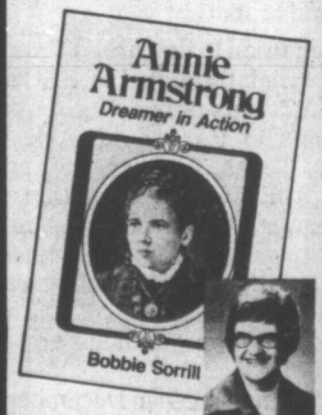
## Annie Armstrong Dreamer in Action

... is a fresh contemporary interpretation of the life of a missions pioneer. Chapters portray her growing up years, her dreams put into action as she served Southern Baptists and left them a legacy in missions and mission education, through her retirement years. Includes a bibliography of persons and sources, an index, and 34-pages of photographs.

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Annie Armstrong Filmstrip (4437-41) \$18.00

Bobbie Sorrell is an associate executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Alabama.



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## Deputy's death sparks petition against paroles

A young deputy sheriff in Marion County lost his life in the line of duty earlier this year, and, as a result of that, efforts are under way to have petitions circulated throughout the state that would call for an end to the early release of prisoners.

Deputy Sheriff Jerry Bryant was killed, according to family members, by two men who had been sentenced for crimes but were out of prison for one reason or another. One was reported to be on parole from a Florida sentence, and the other was said to have been given a suspended sentence in Mississippi. As law officers closed in to make the arrests following the death of Bryant, the convict with the suspended sentence took his own life.

Following Bryant's death his widow received a letter from President Ronald Reagan. It read as follows:

"Nancy and I were sorry to learn about the tragic death of your husband, Jerry, while in the line of duty. We send our heartfelt condolences to you and your family.

"Throughout his law enforcement career, your husband wore his uniform honorably. Our nation owes an inestimable debt of gratitude to individuals like Jerry who, with courage and dedication, safeguard cherished American values and institutions.

"I hope that warm memories will help to heal your pain at this time of sorrow."

Bob Kendricks, pastor of Bunker Hill Church, pointed out that Bryant had been involved in a religious retreat setting shortly before his death; and the question had been asked, "How has God impressed you through this meditation?"

His answer was "I feel that God has really blessed me in the past and that by coming tonight I have received another blessing. I have learned how to really pray this week by reading the tract I got in the mail. When I walked in the church door tonight, I could feel God's love and spirit; and that's the same feeling I've been having this week when I pray. I just thank God for the love he has for us and for forgiving us of our sins. I am proud to say I'm a Christian, and I just thank God for forgiving me and saving me from hell."

Following his death, Bryant was awarded posthumously the Police Medal of Honor and his name was placed in the American Police Hall of Fame in Florida.

Bryant was reared at the Alabama Baptist children's home.

The petition that is available for circulation reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, do hereby petition our Legislature to enact laws that will eliminate the power of the governor to grant the early release of prisoners or any type of suspension of the sentence imposed upon criminals."

A letter to the editor in this issue has additional information on this petition and how to implement it.

Common sense is genius dressed in its working clothes.—Ralph Waldo Emerson



The Panters



The Rankins

## Two mother/daughter weekends for Grades 1-6

"It's Nice to be Nice" will be the theme for two GA Mother/Daughter Weekends at Camp Garaywa, April 6-7 and April 13-14.

The weekend of April 13-14 is now filled to capacity, but space is available for April 6-7. The first weekend has been promoted for grades 1-3, but it is now open for all GAs in grades 1-6.

Program guests for April 6-7 include Bobbye and Jerry Rankin, missionaries to Indonesia; Rachel DuBard, missionary to Liberia; and Vivian Reeves, director of children's work, Broadmoor Church, Jackson.

Program guests for April 13-14 are Dan and Libby Panter, former missionaries to Togo; Charlotte Herrington, home missionary in Meridian; and Ashley McCaleb, consultant, state WMU Department.

Registration for both weekends will begin at 4 p.m. on Friday, and activities conclude with lunch on Saturday.

Cost for the weekend is \$15 per person.

Contact the WMU Department, Box 530, Jackson, to make reservations for the April 6-7 GA Mother/Daughter Weekend.

No cloud can overshadow a true Christian but his faith will discern a rainbow in it.—George Horne

## Revival Dates

Cliff Temple Church, Natchez (Adams): March 18-23; Milton Koon of Booneville, evangelist; Hubert Greer of Brookhaven, music director; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekday services at 10:30 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.; W. G. Dowdy, pastor.

Eastside, Pearl; March 11-15, Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekdays at 7:30 p.m.; evangelist, Gary Bowlin, vocational evangelist from Brandon; music leader, Joe Vance, minister of music at Eastside; pastor, Howard Benton.

Benton Church (Yazoo): March 9-11; Glenn Davis, pastor of Calvary Church, Newton, evangelist; Dale Little, pastor in West, guest musician; Lee Rodgers, pastor; services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; lunch served following the 11 a.m. Sunday service.

## Hensleys, Dentons will lead Gulfshore week

"Strengthening Our Family" will be the theme of Family Enrichment Week at Gulfshore Assembly July 3-7. This annual event is designed to give families in Baptist churches opportunities to be together in significant time of study, challenge, and recreation, according to Paul G. Jones, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Christian Action Commission, event sponsor.

Conference leaders will be Wallace and Juanita Denton of West Lafayette, Ind., and J. Clark and Margaret Hensley of Jackson.

Denton is professor of family therapy and director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Center, Purdue University. Mrs. Denton is education coordinator at University Church,

Purdue.

Hensley is the retired executive director of the Christian Action Commission.

Registration began on March 1 and may be made by sending \$25 per person to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, Miss. 39571. This will be applied to the total cost of the week. Names and ages of children must be included.

Total cost for the week, including meals, is as follows: \$97-\$106 per person (depending upon type of room) for adults, 12 and older \$48.50-\$53 per child, ages 2-11; and \$5 per child under 2 years of age.

For program information, contact Jones at Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, phone 968-3800.

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Thursday, March 8, 1984



The Hensleys



The Dentons

## "Northwest Witness" elects J. L. Watters as editor

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)—James L. Watters, 52, a Southern Baptist missionary to Japan for 20 years, has been elected editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness, newsjournal of the Northwest Baptist Convention.

Watters succeeds Herbert V. Hollinger, who resigned in August 1983, to assume the editorship of the California Southern Baptist.

Watters is chaplain of the Kobe Friendship House in Kobe, Japan, and is director of the Literature Evangelism Project of the Japan Baptist Mission. He is a native of Ada, Okla., and a graduate of East Central State College in Ada, as well as Golden Gate Seminary.

Prior to becoming a foreign missionary, he was pastor of churches in Vannoss, Okla., and Gridley and

Manteca, Calif.

The Northwest board agreed to allow him to assume the editorship of the 15,000 circulation semi-monthly in July: Carol Rathbun, who was associate editor to Hollinger, will continue as interim editor, with assistance from retired editor C. E. Boyle.

## Spiritual awakening meet cancelled

Cancellation of the Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Conference that was scheduled for March 29-31 in Hattiesburg has been announced by Guy Henderson, director of the Evangelism Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The Evangelism Department was to have been the sponsor of the conference.

## CONTACT needs counselors

CONTACT, the only 24 hour telephone crisis center in Jackson, is looking for some people who are willing to be professionally trained to do volunteer telephone counseling, according to J. M. Wood, minister of music at Broadmoor Church,

Jackson, and a member of the recruitment committee on the Board of Directors for CONTACT.

Classes start March 20. Additional information may be obtained by calling 969-7272.

## Reagan steps up pressure for school prayer

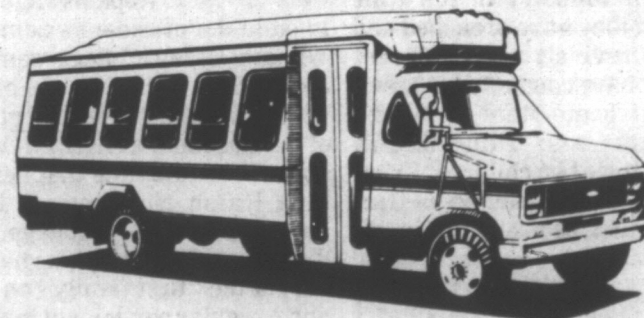
WASHINGTON (BP)—Stepping up his offensive for restoring organized prayer to the nation's public schools, President Reagan called on citizens to pressure Congress to pass his pending prayer amendment.

During his weekly radio address, broadcast Feb. 25 from Camp David, Md., Reagan concluded his latest such appeal by declaring: "If ever there was a time for you, the good people of the country, to make your voices heard, to make the mighty power of your will the decisive force in the halls of Congress, that time is now."

The closest the president came in his radio address to backing up the claim the proposal would provide for "voluntary" prayer was the assurance "our amendment would ensure that no child would be forced to recite a prayer."

On other occasions, administration officials have explained this to mean children and young people who object to the recitation of prayers in their classes would be excused from participating.

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## Devotional A fussing church

By Armond D. Taylor, pastor, Summerwood, Olive Branch  
I Cor. 1:10-12

It seems that a divisive spirit is engulfing our churches like never before. My uncle tells of the following experience relative to his Christian pilgrimage. His young teenage son became interested in the church and was in attendance on a regular basis. Each Sunday upon arrival home from church his dad would say, "Well, what did you all fuss about at church today?" On one such occasion the boy became a little irritated and said to his dad, "If you are so interested, why don't you go down and find out for yourself?" The dad wanted to belt the boy, but somehow he couldn't, for in that moment conviction crept into his heart. He did go to church later and found Jesus as Savior, and has served the Lord faithfully across the years.

The apostle Paul states in Ephesians 4:25b—"That Christ loved the church and gave himself for it." The church with all its problems still represents the best hope for our kind of world. We would be wise to give our best time, talent, and resources to the church of Jesus Christ. Yet, it is possible for us to live in a manner so as to bring shame and disgrace on the church of God.

Many people have a false concept of the purpose of the church. They think it a place to vie for power and position. Some think it is a place only for the perfect and the good. If a person who has missed the way cannot find forgiveness, acceptance, and love within the church of the living God, where can he find it? We go to church to worship God, to receive spiritual nourishment, to find strength for the journey, to have fellowship with God's people—not to clamor for our way and our will to prevail.

What do divisions do? Divisions paralyze the local church (v. 10). Divisions scandalize the membership of the church (v. 11). Divisions jeopardize the leadership of the church (v. 12).

What is the cure for divisions? This church at Corinth that started with so much promise and potential was on the verge of ceasing to exist. Paul states in I Cor. 3:1-3 that the basic cause for this divisive spirit was the immaturity of its membership.

The cure for divisions, according to Paul, was a return to the person of Christ, a return to the centrality of the cross. They had decentralized the person of Christ. Paul brings them back to Christ (I Cor. 2:2).

We need to return, repent, and restore Christ to his rightful place in the church. The words from this song gives us the key—

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in his wonderful face,  
And the things of earth  
Will grow strangely dim  
In the light of his glory and grace."  
Place Christ first and we will cease being a "fussing church."

## Names in the News

Tommy and Diane Winders of Tupelo are beginning their 14th year in full time evangelism this month. During their ministry in full time evangelism, they have preached and sung in 313 revivals in 22 different states; they have conducted 105 revivals in their home state of Mississippi. Tommy and Diane live in Tupelo with their two children, Kristi and Brian, and are members of Harrisburg Baptist Church, Larry W. Fields, pastor.

Perry Neal, former pastor of First Church, Bay St. Louis, Miss., and former associate minister at First Church, Biloxi, has completed his ninth year in full-time evangelism, and his 26th year in the ministry of the gospel. Neal lives now in Montgomery, Ala., at 4418 Wares Ferry Road.

D. C. Black, a native of Oxford, Miss., who served as superintendent of the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home in Monroe from 1946 until retiring in 1962, died Feb. 26. He was 87.

Funeral services were Feb. 28 at College Place Baptist Church in Monroe with Robert L. Lee, Walter Mangham, Wade B. East, and T. Earl Ogg officiating.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Daisy Black, and a daughter, Mrs. Gladys Merriman, both of Monroe.

Mrs. Sadie Hopkins, mother of Mrs. Ralph Noonkester of Hattiesburg, was buried in Marion, Va., on Feb. 25. Mrs. Hopkins, age 79, had lived in the president's home on the William Carey College campus for the past 28 years. She had become a widow following the accidental death of her husband, a sheriff in Virginia, about the same time that her son-in-law, Ralph Noonkester, became president of Carey College. During these years Mrs. Hopkins has been a part of the "first family" on campus and a regular participant in the life of the students and the college. She was a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.



MR. AND MRS. CECIL COLE were honored Jan. 29, in a service of recognition at Strayhorn Church at Sarah in Northwest Association. The Coles, pictured, are retiring after his serving 13 years as pastor of the Strayhorn Church.

## Rankin County rally looks at Bangladesh

More than 450 Rankin County Baptists attended a missions rally and banquet Feb. 17 at Crossgates Church, Brandon, as part of their "Partnership in Prayer and Ministry" emphasis.

Featured speaker was Thomas E. Thurman, general evangelist, stationed in Gopalganj, District, Faridpur, Bangladesh.

Thurman, a native of Monticello, Miss., said people will approach him asking, "Would you come and share with us your book which we heard has come down from heaven?"

Thurman works in an area where 48 churches serve a population of three million and where he is the only Southern Baptist missionary. He is a graduate of Clarke and Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Gloria have two sons.

One of his prize possessions, he said, is a 110cc Honda motor bike

purchased by funds from the Lottie Moon offering for foreign missions, which provides his transportation on otherwise impassable roads.

A highlight of the banquet was a parade of flags of the nations, and special music by the Sunshine Baptist Church sanctuary choir, directed by Bob Coleman. Special music consisting of contemporary Christian songs written by Eddie Ray, a senior at Mississippi College, "Living in the Light," and "His Instrument," were performed by vocalists Anita Renfro, Cecelia Renfro, and Ray.

Testimonies were offered by R. C. Rice of Star Church and moderator of Rankin Association, Mrs. Dianne Phillips, WMU director at Central Church, and Terrell Blanton, deacon chairman at Liberty Church.

The rally-banquet is sponsored by the Rankin Association's WMU and Brotherhood.



Tom Thurman

## Where to buy World's Fair tickets?

People planning to attend the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition in New Orleans this year can purchase their tickets through the Louisiana World's Fair Ministries.

Serving as an outreach ministry of the Greater New Orleans Federation of Churches, Louisiana World's Fair Ministries will be a participant in the World's Fair which will be held May 12 through Nov. 11, 1984.

Purchasing the tickets, which can be mailed to the potential fair-goer, not only allows the ticket holder to

attend the events of the Louisiana World's Fair, but also helps underwrite the expense for this ambitious inter-denominational ministry.

A percentage of the purchase price of every ticket bought goes toward the ministry. The cost of the LWFM pavilion and subsequent activities has been set at \$1.2 million. Most of the on-site staff will be volunteers, including ministers and church members from nearly every denomination in the Greater New Orleans area.

There is no additional charge for purchasing tickets through the World's Fair Ministries.

Through May 11 the Adult Passport will cost \$120 and the Child/Senior Citizen Passport will be \$90. Adult one-day passes are \$15 and two-day passes are \$28. Child/Senior Citizen one-day passes are \$14 and two-day passes are \$26.

Tickets may be ordered from the Louisiana World's Fair Ministries, P. O. Box 50440, New Orleans, La., 70150-9989.

## Mississippi Baptist Activities

- Mar. 11 Home Mission Day in the Sunday School (SS Emphasis)
- Mar. 11-18 Youth Week (CT Emphasis)
- Mar. 13 Celebrate Family Rally; FBC, Jackson; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (CT)
- Mar. 15-16 Statewide Church Extension Conference; Baptist Building; Noon, 15th-Noon, 16th (CoMi)
- Mar. 17 Associational Youth Night (CT Emphasis)
- Kindergarten/Day Care Clinic; Woodville Heights BC, Jackson; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (CAPM)
- Missions Day Camping Conference; Camp Garaywa; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (WMU)

## It reaches 'round the world

By. W. W. Walley, Waynesboro layman

God's plan almost always involves a man and I am grateful that when he implanted the idea of the Cooperative Program in the fertile minds of our forefathers many years ago that man was sensitive enough to the wooing of the Holy Spirit to let that seed germinate and our Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program was born and nurtured to maturity.

Not only have our churches benefited from that but people and organizations all over the world have

joined in the harvest.

In my travels to all of the major continents of the world I have not found any program for financing church and church related work that comes close to our Cooperative Program. It is the envy of other evangelical groups.

It is comforting to know that when I make a contribution to my local church a percentage of that gift goes for Baptist causes around the world. To God Be The Glory.



# Missionary couples evacuate to Cyprus

By Bill Webb

NICOSIA, Cyprus (BP)—For a split-second, the buzzing of a plane overhead took missionary evacuee Linda Sacco back to Beirut.

"I wonder who they are going to hit?" she asked herself before realizing she was 125 ocean miles away in the peaceful little port city of Larnaca, Cyprus.

Meriam Fox, Southern Baptist volunteer from Dayton, Ohio, stood smiling on a dock in Larnaca as she greeted missionaries arriving from Lebanon. She and her husband had evacuated five days earlier, but she still jumped when she heard an unexpected noise down the dock.

Although they had again been spared physical harm, their senses were reminding them Southern Baptist missionary and volunteer families in Lebanon didn't escape Beirut's most recent trauma.

Just 10 days earlier, Mrs. Fox had been frightened as refugees attempted to break down her door and take over the apartment she and her husband occupied in west Beirut.

Steve Fox, a pastor, was at University Baptist Church witnessing to three men when his wife heard pounding at the door of their apartment. Through the peephole she could see a hallway full of people.

Quickly barricading the door with an iron bar, she tried unsuccessfully to phone her husband and their landlord. Finally she began throwing pieces of antique pottery down to the

street from her third-floor balcony, frantically trying to get someone's attention.

Her landlord came running and dispersed the would-be intruders, but not before they had kicked in a door panel.

"I kept telling myself I wasn't scared, but I couldn't sleep the first night I was here," she admitted in Larnaca. "I finally came to grips with the fact I was scared."

The Foxes were among six adults and five children from the Southern Baptist mission in Lebanon evacuated to Larnaca aboard the United States transport ships Manitowoc and Trenton. Another missionary couple, Ed and Anne Nicholas, from Centerville, Mich., and Fort Worth, Texas, followed five days later on a commercial ferry boat.

Fourteen Southern Baptist missionaries and four missionary kids remain in Lebanon.

Missionaries said the mood was different this time in the city where merchants are known for reopening their shops the day after heavy fighting. This time, the streets of west Beirut filled with armed men—some wearing scarves across their faces—and many residents chose the refuge of basements.

Militiamen commanded bulldozers, trucks and other vehicles as they swept through west Beirut Feb. 6. Someone stole a van from Beirut Baptist School but later returned it to



Southern Baptist missionary Anne Nicholas (center) gets a hug from first-term missionary Russell Futrell (blond), from Pineville, La., as she and her husband, Ed (left in overcoat), wait to set foot in Cyprus from the Cypriot ferry Sol Georgios. The Nicholases, from Centerville, Mich., and Fort Worth, Texas, were delayed in evacuating Lebanon by two days because of rough seas. Futrell was in the earlier American Embassy evacuation but came to greet his missionary colleagues. (BP) PHOTO By Bill Webb.

missionary principal Jim Ragland, of Wetumka, Okla. He credited the intervention of influential friends of the prominent school.

Reports circulated of families ordered at gunpoint to vacate their homes or to empty their wallets. First-term missionary Russell Futrell, from Pineville, La., said: "You could feel the tension in the air."

A frightened Moslem mother of two phoned Mrs. Sacco shortly before the Sacco family left west Beirut in the American Embassy-sponsored evacuation Feb. 10.

The young woman told her missionary friend about a nagging nightmare she first had a year earlier: "I dreamed you were leaving. I tried to go with you but they wouldn't let

me."

Mrs. Sacco, a missionary mother of five from McAlester, Okla., said she "really hated to leave because I knew some people felt like this was the end for them. It's encouraging to the other people, I think, when they see that foreigners are still there."

The Foxes agree. They packed their bags on short notice between drop-in guests on evacuation day. She served coffee but didn't tell visitors they were preparing to leave.

"Everyone kept saying, 'If the Americans leave, what will happen to us?'" she explained. Though difficult, they felt friends would be less likely to panic if they left without notice.

But almost until their departure the Foxes continued to provide food and blankets for members of their congregation and other refugees.

The Nicholases evacuated from Monsouriyeh, where the Arab Baptist seminary, publication center, and broadcasting ministries are based on the east side. They and five other missionary couples in the area have lived with daily shelling for months.

The Nicholases finally decided to come out of Lebanon, they said, because various pressures had left them tired. "One of the reasons we feel tired is the constant living with hurting people—so much hurt, so much despair that it's hard not to let it drag you down," she said. "We're hurting, too."

## WMU fanfare unveils Vision

By Carol Sisson

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—With the fanfare of a national political convention, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC unveiled its new enlistment plan at the 1984 Executive Board Meeting in Shocco Springs, Ala.

"Vision 88" will be the theme of WMU's effort to bring membership up to a total of two million women, girls, and preschoolers for quality missions education. The plan will be in effect through September, 1988.

Flashing placards and state pride, WMU representatives announced their individual state goals.

"Vision 88" comes on the heels of WMU's National Enlistment Plan (NEP), a just-ended three year program to start WMU in every church in the Southern Baptist Convention. Although not started in every church, WMUs were begun in 3,173 churches.

The need and enthusiasm for missions education discovered through NEP convinced WMU leaders that "Vision 88" was a viable and necessary follow-up.

"Vision 88" is without apology an emphasis on numbers. We dare to dream of what could happen in missions if twice as many women, girls, and preschoolers were enrolled in quality missions education," said Carolyn Weatherford, WMU, SBC executive director.

The press will be for involvement.

"We want to establish an enlistment mind-set among current WMU members," said Weatherford.

People involved in "Vision 88" will make personal contact with a prospective member. Enlistment will be considered complete when the new member grows to realize her role in WMU.

"Vision 88" also calls for improved quality in existing WMU work. "As we look at enlistment potential we also are examining the product, to be sure that WMU is worthwhile and attractive for today's busy person," said Weatherford.

The new enlistment plan will seek to accommodate schedules of people from all lifestyles, ages, and interests.

Tentative plans for training include a national Enlistment Training Team of at least 100 national special workers. They would provide enlistment training and consultation for state, associational and church audiences.

Other tentative plans include ten to fifteen regional enlistment training clinics. Conference leaders and trainers for state and associational enlistment events would be oriented in Birmingham.

(Sisson writes for Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.)



Mississippi springs boldly into the new WMU enlistment plan, "Vision 88," with a goal of 80,800 members by 1988. Pictured are Mississippi WMU executive director Marjean Patterson (left), with Carolyn Weatherford, WMU, SBC executive director.

## Lay renewal at Arlington

Arlington Church at Bogue Chitto will be having a lay renewal emphasis on March 16, 17 and 18. The meetings will start at 6:30 p.m. on Friday with a covered dish supper. Youths are included in this meeting. This event is 42 hours long. "This is a people-to-people experience rather than pulpit-to-pew. This is layman sharing with layman how he has discovered a meaningful faith," said James Jeffreys, pastor.

## Staff Changes

Tom Miller, former associate pastor of Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula, has accepted the pastorate at Southside Church, Lucedale, George County.

He served Eastlawn six years and 9 months. He is a graduate of Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla., and New Orleans Seminary.

Gloria Speed has resigned as minister of music and youth at First Church, Gillette, Fla., to become minister of education and youth, First Church, Okolona. Roy McHenry is pastor.

Fred Bueto has resigned as pastor of First Church, Moss Point, to accept the call to Meadowbrook Church, Oxford, Ala., as pastor. He served in Moss Point for 2 1/2 years.

Bob Reno has resigned as minister of education at South Louisville Church, Louisville, to accept the position as minister of education and administration with First Church, Rogers, Ark. Other churches he has served in Mississippi were Briarwood Drive, Jackson, and First Church, Ridgeland.

Tim Moran has been called as pastor of Delisle Church, Gulf Coast.

An idle Christian is a contradiction in terms.—Thomas Guthrie

Ellis Jones has resigned as pastor of Michael Memorial Church, Gulf Coast.

Maxwell Price has begun his ministry as pastor of Union Church,

Smith Association. He went from Calhoun County.

Sonny Gill has accepted the pastorate of Liberty Road Church, Calhoun County.

Edward Pendergrast began his pastorate at Glendale Church, Greenville, on March 4. He moved from Calhoun County.

Buddy Trull has accepted the pastorate of Midway Church, Calhoun County. He goes from First Church, Christoval, Tex.

Ricky Johnston, native of McComb, was installed as pastor at Calvary Church, Hattiesburg, on

March 4, at 10:30 a.m. The processional led by the Sanctuary Choir included trumpeters and handbells. On behalf of the Pastor's Search Committee, Raymond McMahon

presented the Bible to the new minister. Bill Osborn, on behalf of the congregation, presented the pulpit. Johnston closed the ceremony with his first sermon to the congregation.

Johnston is a graduate, University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary. He has served pastorates in several Mississippi communities, most recently at Aberdeen. Prior to entering the ministry, he was an elementary school teacher.

## Bible Book

# Manasseh's long and evil reign

By Bill Causey, pastor, Parkway, Jackson  
II Kings 21:1-26

The good king Hezekiah was succeeded by his son Manasseh who began a period of evil that was to last 55 years. It began with his restoring the worship of idols. But not merely a few—it appears he built a “high place” for every form of evil he had heard of.

### I. Evil and its forms (1-6)

He built altars for Baal and Asherah, which involved sexual immorality. He worshipped the host of heaven—the stars and heavenly bodies. He desecrated the house of the Lord which had been intended exclusively for Jehovah (v. 4). He put pagan altars even in the temple area (v. 5). He not only did this for the other people, but practiced these himself. Verse 6 recites a list of these: child sacrifice of his own son; consulted witches and looked for signs (divination); and consulted mediums and spiritists who claimed to receive information from the dead. It was as though he were trying deliberately to provoke God (v. 6b). He even put the carved female form of the Asherah in the temple itself in Jerusalem (v. 7).

To understand the tragedy of these practices, it must be remembered that these were preferred to the worship of the true God who had revealed himself to them and had clearly shown them the way of truth. Fear and superstition derive from these false gods and reveal the desperation of those who would not listen to

Jehovah. In these forms of worship they tried to magically manipulate the elements of the natural order which they (wrongly) thought controlled their lives; such as the stars (astrology), or five (fire god Molech), or fertility (Baal and Asherah). These disclose the superstitious fears of the people and the uncivilizing effects engendered by false religion.

### II. Truth and its exclusiveness (7-9)

Jehovah's covenant love for his people dictated that they not introduce idolatry and its attendant evils. Even at Sinai—in the Ten Commandments—he warned that he was “a jealous God” (Deut. 5:8-10). Jealous does not mean selfish. It means there is an exclusiveness and singlemindedness that protects those whom he loves with the truth. It is the heart's protection against the downward tug of superstitions. It is protection against the fragmenting effects of enshrining that which is false, no matter how appealing to human nature.

The civilizing and lifting of the social order, then or now, rests squarely upon the worship of God and practices consistent with his revealed truth. The truth (v. 8) was clear but Manasseh in his evil seduced (v. 9) his own people.

### III. Evil and its consequences (10-26)

Prophecy was directed against Manasseh and the land of Judah because of its great wickedness. God

warned that the calamity would be so great as to cause “the ears to tingle” if one heard of it (v. 12). He used the same standard of righteousness as a plumbline which he used on Ahab and Samaria (v. 13). Jerusalem will be wiped out and God will not help them (vss. 14-15).

Manasseh's accommodation to evil resulted in the shedding of innocent blood (v. 16). The self-destructive mechanism in evil caused a tide of violence against his own people which forever stands with idolatry as a twin monument to his evil reign. He was not buried with the other kings but in the garden of his own house.

He was succeeded by his son Amon (v. 19) who tragically “walked in the way his father had walked” (v. 21) and didn't follow the Lord. This resulted in the assassination (v. 23) and he too was buried in the garden of Uzza beside his father (v. 26). The evil of one generation profoundly affected the next—as always.

That a nation's destiny is inherent in its decisions related to God's laws of morality and truth is a lesson our own nation needs to relearn. Perversions of the truth disguised as religion are particularly dangerous because they are awarded a status by society which disarms its citizens and makes them vulnerable. The most basic and meaningful thing a person can do for his nation is to worship and serve the God of truth.

## Life and Work

# Establishing priorities

By Gerald P. Buckley, pastor, Parkway, Natchez  
Mark 12:13-14

All Christians need to establish priorities for their lives. Life is a series of choices. The complexity of life often makes choosing and following through very difficult.

As an aid in making these choices each Christian should establish priorities. Priorities enable us to give ourselves to things having most value in Christian living. The concern for this lesson is the establishing of right priorities for our lives.

### I. The first commandment (Mark 12:28-31)

The Sadducees were rich and powerful but were no match for Jesus in theological matters, so the next one to test Jesus was an expert in the law. “And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, which is the first commandment of all?”

Here is a scribe who shines brilliantly in the large and varied company of those who came and asked. Like so many great characters in the Gospels, he is anonymous. He deserves to be remembered. Other people came to ask Jesus questions for so many reasons: to entrap him, to block his work, sometimes merely to show off. Here was a man who actually came to learn. May his tribe increase.

Jesus answered clearly—“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.”

The great contribution of Jesus, in his summary of the law as love to God and love to neighbor, lay in its selective priority. The commanding priority is faith in God and love to God. From that flows the necessary and inevitable consequence, love to neighbor. The life with no subordination is a spiritual and moral chaos. Love to God will result in love to neighbor.

The perfect example, of course, is that which Jesus himself gives in the parable of the good Samaritan. In Luke it follows this declaration of the greatest commandment. Beside that any words of explanation are halting prose. If one thinks of the limited, immediate circle of face-to-face relationships in a small neighborhood, everything becomes comparatively easy. But in the parable of the good Samaritan, the man who overstepped all existing borders to do concrete, costly acts of love, makes clear

together with almost nothing except the common desire to kill Jesus. The shallowness of their commitment and the hypocrisy of their defense of the Sabbath observance is revealed by the extent of their hatred. Today those who would have destroyed the Christ are but names in our Bible and on the pages of history books. The kingdom they opposed is found all over our world, and the Christ of love that they saw crucified lives forever awaiting in heaven those who are returning his love through faith in him.

that love of neighbor has no barriers.

### II. A lesson in stewardship (Mark 12:38-44)

This passage draws a contrast between the self-seeking teachers or scribes and a poor widow. They were takers; she was a giver. Her tiny offering of two mites moved the heart of Jesus to such a degree that her story has become immortal.

This scornful picture of the scribes' love of prominence, done with masterful brushwork, accurate in observation and detail, hits in the very center of some dominant motives of our time and society. Here is no period piece, some quaint glimpse of ancient snobs and self-pushers in Jerusalem. Every description fits into the 1984 scene.

Jesus watched the people making their gifts. The point the Master makes is blazingly clear: the gift which counts is the gift which costs. The distinguishing mark of the widow's gift, however, was not merely its proportion to her means. There was something in her heart that lifted the gift out of routine into the realm of sacrifice.

In a former pastorate, we were building a new sanctuary. An appeal was made for our members to donate pews. The most touching response was on the part of an elderly widow. Her only income was a small social security check. Her medical bills were high. She telephoned to say she wanted to donate a pew. I tried to talk her out of her plan. She insisted and said it was something she was eager to do. For many months the church received an envelope each month in addition to her regular offering. This plain, white envelope contained money toward her pew. It took her over a year, but she gave the entire amount. Her attitude and example were a blessing to many in that church. Love will find a way to give.

**When angry, count ten; if very angry, count a hundred.**—Thomas Jefferson

**As daylight can be seen through small holes, so do little things show a person's character.**—Samuel Butler

## Uniform

# Jesus encounters hostility

By Robert Earl Shirley, pastor, Parkway, Tupelo  
Mark 2:15-17, 23 to 3:6

The hostility toward Jesus that was to culminate in his crucifixion was inevitable as he proclaimed an honest, practical, religion of love in a world of ritualism, self-righteousness, and moth-eaten tradition. His example of what is good and his rebuke of that which is evil was to generate a hatred that knew no bounds. Our lesson today shows the nature of the criticism that was to follow him throughout his earthly ministry and the trend that it would take.

**Criticized for associating with sinners (2:15-17).** One can understand the shock of the self-righteous scribes and Pharisees when they saw Jesus eating with the despised publicans and sinners. They would surely question his sincerity, his genuineness, or his intelligence while missing the point that God loves all people and that Christ came to offer salvation to everyone.

Here is presented the truth that one can hate sin and still love the sinner. Whoever you are who read these words, know that Christ loves you regardless of who you are or what you have done. If humanity could have lived perfect lives, there would have been no need of his coming. He came to heal the disobedient, dirty, weak, sinful souls who will accept his cure and forgiveness, sweet young boys

and girls, or anyone else who will receive him.

**Criticized for working on the Sabbath (2:23-28).** When the disciples of Jesus pulled ears of corn and ate them on the Sabbath, the Pharisees questioned as to why they did that which was not lawful for them to do on that day. These verses were not given to excuse us from obedience to God's laws but to show that man was not made for the law, but the law for man. People are more precious than rules. Even the Old Testament prophets tempered their pronouncements of judgment with mercy. Rules and regulations are necessary in a complex society for our safety and order, but they are made for our good and not for any arbitrary purpose.

To illustrate this fact, Jesus pointed to their beloved King David to show that he recognized this truth when he and his men went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest and ate the shew bread which was lawful for only the priests to eat. Today, though, as we observe Sunday as the Lord's Day, we need to remember that man is so made as to need a day of rest and spiritual refreshing. Many voices claim our attention and a busy world demands our time. Thus, we need a day of physical relaxation, times to

remember what life is all about, and moments of commitment and dedication.

**Criticized for healing on the Sabbath (3:1-6).** The growing nature of the hostility is evident in the fact that Christ's enemies are now seen watching him closely waiting for him to disobey one of their religious regulations in order that they might accuse him. He soon gives them the opportunity to do so when once again he enters the synagogue and finds there a man with a withered hand.

There is no need for the poor soul to cry out, for Jesus reaches out to him and heals him. It was apparently not in his own defense, but to teach the Pharisees a lesson that Christ asks them, “Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath day or to do evil? to save life, or to kill?” They do not answer for to do so would be to condemn themselves. They have no love for their fellowman and they hate Jesus. God's will no longer matters.

**Hostility beyond criticism (3:6).** Even today when men lose an argument, they are prone to resort to violence, and such was to be true in the case of the Pharisees. Straightway, they took counsel with the Herodians in an effort to find a way to destroy Jesus. The Herodians were a political party which favored the dynasty of Herod. This strange alliance is bound

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